In The Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original) A method of manufacturing a soot perform for an optical fiber using the apparatus of claims 1, wherein a velocity of the gases passing through said slit is set between 3m/sec and 20m/sec.

Claim 7. (original) A method of claim 6, wherein passing of a gas through said slit is caused by forced exhaustion of gas through said gas exit, and the gas passed through said slit is a prepared gas.

Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said prepared gas is an atmospheric air passed through a dust-tight filter.

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said prepared gas is air in a clean room of class 10000 or better.

Claim 10. (canceled)

Claim 11. (original) A method of manufacturing a soot preform for an optical fiber using the apparatus of claim 10, wherein a downward gas flow is maintained to flow from the upper part of said upper room toward the reaction chamber at a velocity of 0.05 m/sec or greater.

Claims 12-19 (canceled)